

# BILL FOR CRIME

### Costs New York City Over \$125,000,000 Annually.

## IS GOING TO FIGHT FLIES

#### City's Remarkable Pushcart Business Greater Than the Total of Many Cities—Record Breaking Ship With Forty-three Sails.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The annual crime bill in New York is rapidly assuming such gigantic proportions that it will soon be equivalent to not only the interest on the national debt, but also to a substantial annual payment on the principal. Last year crime and its results cost Father Knickerbocker just \$33,562,133.24. This sum, could it be devoted to the construction of new subways for which the city is so vainly clamoring, would build one of these underground lines of travel every year, clean all the streets, pay the salaries of all the officials and leave about \$4,000,000 in addition for the support of hospitals. In addition to this vast sum \$42,605,473 was spent in the greater city for the detection, punishment and prevention of crime. Crime during the past year exacted also \$424,180 for the maintenance of the District Attorney's office and \$13,849,841 for the Police Department. Throughout the whole country more than 300,000 inmates of almshouses, asylums, reformatories and similar institutions cost the country more than \$62,000,000 annually. In New York alone the proportion of the annual budget traceable to crime amounts to \$78,866,100. Through other channels the total probably exceeds \$125,000,000, so that this city has the record of having the highest crime tax in the United States. Throughout the country the direct cost of crime is estimated at \$700,000,000, but New York's bill is far in excess of that of any other city.

New York is now to have the most expensive farm in the world, valued at \$1,000,000 an acre, since Central Park, the exclusive Fifth Avenue playground, is to be turned partially

at least into a vegetable garden, in which potato patches will play a prominent part. Carrots, cabbages, corn and peas will also figure among its products for the season. Indeed it seems probable that during the coming summer the expression "how's the crop" will be one of the most popular queries in what has hitherto been the most expensive and exclusive park in the world. This is not to be taken to mean, however, that Father Knickerbocker has gone into municipal farming, since he will have no vegetables to sell this summer. The crops in Central Park which will gladden the eye of the rural visitor will be merely indications of the manner in which the city is striving to replenish the soil, now weakened through many years of cultivation. As an alternative to the expenditure of \$3,000,000 for fertilizer, the city fathers have decided that it will be cheaper and more effective to start various crops in rotation. Just what disposition will be made of the vegetables raised in Central Park is not known, but as the land is valued at \$1,000,000 dollars an acre it is certain that whoever obtains the product will have the output of the most valuable farm in the world.

There is now predicted the striking possibility of a horseless and flyless New York, and the spectacle may soon be presented here of real war in which the deaths will run into unnumbered billions, for the greatest city in the country is likely to begin a systematic attack on the common house fly. The movement will not be undertaken for the relief of persons with less than the ordinary endowment of hair. It will assume a much more serious aspect for the city which has long regarded the fly as an annoyance has now been brought to the realization that it is a menace greater than an invading army. A report just made at the instance of the Merchants' Association revealing the surprising fact that the house fly in New York alone exacts a deadly toll of nearly 10,000 human lives annually. As a spreader of disease the fly is now held to be far more dangerous than the mosquito, on whom scientific warfare is already being widely waged. The campaign for fly extermination, if one is undertaken, will be of necessity on a tremendous scale, while a fly census is out of the question it is estimated that the city in summer contains more than one thousand million flies, of which during the season each female brings forth about 1,000,000 eggs. Furthermore, the fly has a powerful ally in the house, of which there are now 120,000 in Greater New York, according to figures presented in the May number of Appleton's. In the whole country there are at present 3,110,789 horses and mules, and it is pointed out that wherever they are found flies flourish most numerous. In this city alone the annual expense caused by the pre-

sence of the horse on the streets is more than \$13,000,000. Based upon the now proven fact that the fly goes with the horse, the Appleton writer believes it will be necessary to banish the quadruped before the insect can be exterminated. If such proves to be the case Father Knickerbocker will find himself with a very good-sized job indeed on his hands.

Memories of the old days of New York's commerce when it was handled in sailing vessels, before the advent of steam driven ships, were awakened this week by the record breaking arrival of the Pruessen, the largest sailing vessel of its class in the world. A few transatlantic liners it is true average about twenty knots an hour, but not many exceed the record of nearly nineteen knots or about twenty-two miles in an hour. There have been ships with more masts which have recently entered New York harbor but none in the class of the Pruessen whose peculiarity lies in the fact that she is square rigged and has no auxiliary engine. No other ship of this class has entered the harbor in years. The record breaking vessel has 43 separate sails in all, not counting sparsails, with a spread of over 60,000 square feet of canvas. The length of the lower yard of this mammoth vessel is 102 feet, while her main royal yard is 50 feet long. Her masts are three feet in thickness at the deck, and a total of 56,625 feet

or nearly eleven miles or rope has been used in the rigging. Of the six anchors the largest weighs more than four tons. The ship is 433 feet long and 56 feet in breadth with a tonnage of more than 11,000. Altogether the Pruessen is a mammoth of her class such as has never been seen before and a rare reminder of the days of the clipper ship when sail driven vessels thronged New York's harbor.

The number of pushcarts, that is the movable stores on wheels, from which every kind of merchandise is sold in New York, now exceeds the surprising total of 6000. The goods disposed of from them each year are valued at \$25,000,000. Indeed the city's itinerant pushcart merchants do annually a greater business than many a thriving town, while their number exceeds the population of any of more than two-thirds of the towns and cities of the country. The lower east side, with 5109 of these pushcarts peculiar to the newly arrived merchant of foreign extraction, leads all the rest, and its showing in this line would if all the pushcarts were placed end to end extend more than ten miles. The business of supplying these movable counters employs more than 2,000 men in five large factories and has a gross revenue of more than \$2,000,000 annually. The pushcart is apparently peculiar to New York.

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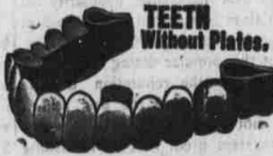
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